REMARKS

The applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's citation of U.S. Patent No. 6,041,022 (Tu et al.) as anticipating claims 1-8, 11, 12 and 25. The applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

The present application claims a generator for a coin mechanism, comprising a drive wheel that is biased to a rest position by a biasing element and rotatable to a release position. The drive wheel is selectively rotationally coupled to the rotor such that when the drive wheel is rotated to the release position *and the drive wheel itself is released*, the drive wheel drives the rotor as the drive wheel returns to the rest position. As the rotor rotates, the generator generates an electric current.

Tu et al. teach a generator having a rotor driven by a toothed wheel, which in turn is driven by a spring. The teeth on the wheel mesh with the teeth on the rotor long enough to move the rotor to an angle from its rest position, and then disengage allowing the rotor to return to its rest position and generate a small electric current. But it is Tu et al.'s *rotor* that is released, not the drive wheel. Tu et al.'s "drive wheel 51" is a continuously rotating gear, which rotates in a single direction, without stopping and thus without any "rest position." Unlike the present invention, Tu et al.'s rotor is driven in increments.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Tu et al. as having a "drive wheel being biased to a rest position by a biasing element and rotatable to a release position…such that when the drive wheel is rotated to the release position and released the drive wheel drives the rotor as the drive wheel returns to the rest position." In Tu et al. the wheel 51 is not biased to any rest position, it continually turns under the influence of the coil spring. While Tu et al.'s wheel 51 is selectively rotationally coupled to the rotor, in Tu et al. the drive wheel drives the rotor intermittently as the drive wheel rotates, but this is a continuous process without any rest position. As noted above, the "drive wheel 51" itself is never released.

In short, Tu's drive wheel thus does not have a rest position, and does not return to the rest position to drive the rotor. A disadvantage of this configuration is that the generator is capable of generating only a very small current pulse with each tilting and disengagement of the rotor.

The present invention is capable of generating a substantial current, because the potential energy imparted to the drive wheel by rotation of the handle is released through almost a complete cycle of the drive wheel returning to its rest position, not in small increments as in Tu et al. The objected-to claims each recite that drive wheel is biased to a rest position and rotatable to a release position such that when the drive wheel is released the drive wheel drives the rotor as the drive wheel returns to the rest position. Tu et al. does not teach or suggest such a configuration or method, and the applicant thus submits that the claims as filed are allowable.

Favourable reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore respectfully requested.

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